

Message Text

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 01 MOSCOW 18458 291437Z

42

ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 IO-10 ISO-00 SAM-01 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 SCCT-01 DHA-02 /085 W

----- 050667

R 291345Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8222

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

USMISSION USUN

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MOSCOW 18458

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, AO

SUBJECT: SOVIET MEDIA AGAIN GIVES SOUTH AFRICA LEAD ROLE IN
ANGOLA DRAMA

1. SUMMARY. SOVIET PRESS COMMENTARY ON ANGOLA HAS BEEN
EXTREMELY HEAVY OVER THE PAST FEW DAYS. SOUTH AFRICA HAS
RETURNED AS THE PRINCIPAL CULPRIT, BUT EDITORIAL COMMENTS
JUSTIFYING SOVIET SUPPORT FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS
ARE OBVIOUSLY AIMED AT REBUTTING US STATEMENTS WHICH URGED
A NEGOTIATED SETTLEMENT AND WITHDRAWAL OF ALL OUTSIDE
FORCES. END SUMMARY.

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 02 MOSCOW 18458 291437Z

2. IZVESTIYA (DEC 24) CARRIES AN EDITORIAL BY POLITICAL

OBSERVER VIKENTY MATVEYEV ENTITLED "DETENTE AND ITS ENEMIES", WHICH LEADS BY STRESSING THE NEED FOR DETENTE, BUT WHICH EVENTUALLY FOCUSES ON THE ANGOLAN SITUATION. MATVEYEV REITERATES MOSCOW'S POSITION THAT "DETENTE DOES NOT MEAN AND CANNOT MEAN A FREEZING OF THE SOVIAL STATUS-QUO IN THE WORLD." HE ADDS THAT THE STRUGGLE AGAINST THE PORTUGUESE EMPIRE IN AFRICA "STARTED IN THE PERIOD OF THE COLD WAR" AND CONTINUED INTO A PERIOD OF DETENTE. ACCORDING TO MATVEYEV, "THERE WAS NOTHING UNUSUAL IN THIS," EVEN THOUGH A FEW PEOPLE IN THE WEST ARE CLAIMING THERE ARE "CONTRADICTIONS" BETWEEN THE DETENTE PROCESS AND THE EFFORTS OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE TO REPULSE THE FORCES OF FOREIGN INTERVENTION AND INTERNAL REACTION. "SUPPORT OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS," MATVEYEV CONTINUES, "IS ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PRINCIPLES OF SOVIET FOREIGN POLICY," AS IS THE FURTHER DEVELOPMENT OF DETENTE. EFFORTS BY SOME WESTERN CIRCLES TO PICTURE SOVIET "SYMPATHY AND SUPPORT" FOR THE STRUGGLE OF THE ANGOLAN PEOPLE AS INCONSISTENT WITH DETENTE ARE "POINT-LESS," MATVEYEV CONCLUDES.

3. A LENGTHY ARTICLE BY A. KLIMOV (IZVESTIYA, DEC 25) OPENS WITH AN EXPANDED JUSTIFICATION FOR SOVIET SUPPORT OF THE MPLA FACTION IN ANGOLA. KLIMOV REJECTS THE ARGUMENTS OF A FEW U.S. LEADERS WHO ARE TRYING TO "PUT PRESSURE" ON THE SOVIET UNION, AND WHO ARE TRYING TO MAKE THE USSR RESPONSIBLE FOR THE ANGOLAN CONFLICT. "THE SOVIET UNION AND OTHER SOCIALIST COUNTRIES" HAVE FOR YEARS PROVIDED "POLITICAL, MORAL, AND MATERIAL SUPPORT" FOR THE ARMED STRUGGLE OF NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS IN AFRICA, "INCLUDING THE MPLA," KLIMOV WRITES, AND THIS SUPPORT WAS NOT ONLY IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THE MOVEMENTS

THEMSELVES, BUT ALSO IN RESPONSE TO REQUESTS FROM THE OAU. KLIMOV ADDS THAT THE SITUATION IN ANGOLA PROVES THAT THE ANTI-COLONIAL STRUGGLE DOES NOT END UPON THE ACHIEVEMENT OF INDEPENDENCE; IT MUST BE PROTECTED AND CARRIED FORWARD. THE USSR HAS HELPED MANY AFRICAN COUNTRIES, KLIMOV CONTINUES, THEREFORE THERE IS NOTHING UNUSUAL IN SOVIET SUPPORT FOR THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 03 MOSCOW 18458 291437Z

ANGOLA. TURNING TO THE UPCOMING OAU CONFERENCE, KLIMOV STATES THAT THE AFRICAN PRESS BELIEVES IT IS "USELESS TO URGE UNITY BETWEEN THE MPLA AND THE SPLITTIST GROUPS," BECAUSE IT IS OBVIOUS THAT IT CAN ONLY BE A QUESTION OF "UNITY OF THE NATIONAL FORCES." AND NOT UNITY WITH THOSE WHO HAVE ENTERED A "CRIMINAL ALLIANCE" WITH THE ENEMIES OF ANGOLA'S NATIONAL INTERESTS.

4. PRAVDA'S COMMENTARY (DEC 25) FOCUSES ON SOUTH AFRICAN ACTIVITIES AND ALLEGED INTENTIONS IN ANGOLA. AS EVIDENCE FOR PRETORIA'S ALLEGED GOAL OF WIDENING ITS "INTERVENTION" IN ANGOLA, PRAVDA CITES SOUTH AFRICA'S REPORTED EXTENSION OF TERMS OF MILITARY SERVICE AS WELL AS AN INCREASE IN MILITARY EXPENDITURES.

5. THE U.S. DOES NOT ESCAPE UNSCATHED, HOWEVER. PRAVDA (DEC 25) CLAIMS THAT ADDED SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA WAS PROVIDED BY MERCENARIES RECRUITED IN THE U.S., EVEN THOUGH RECRUITMENT OF SUCH MERCENARIES IS "ILLEGAL," AND A BRIEF STORY ON THE SECRETARY'S PRESS-CONFERENCE CLAIMS THAT "AS IS WELL-KNOWN, THE U.S. IN ANGOLA IS WORKING IN CONCERT WITH THE RACIST REGIME OF SOUTH AFRICA AND WITH THE MAOISTS." IZVESTIYA (DEC 26) CARRIES A SHORT ITEM AIMED AT NATO SUPPORT FOR SOUTH AFRICA, WHICH INCLUDES THE CHARGE THAT "THE RACIST REGIME IS USING THE MORAL AND MATERIAL SUPPORT OF THE NATO COUNTRIES AND THE U.S. TO WIDEN ITS AGGRESSION IN ANGOLA." PRAVDA'S CARTOON (DEC 26) DEPICTS AN UNPLEASANT LOOKING MAN POURING ARMS INTO ANGOLA FROM A CORNUCOPIA LABELED CIA. FINALLY, PRAVDA'S INTERNATIONAL REVIEW (DEC 28) LEVELS ITS SIGHTS PRIMARILY ON THE CIA, BUT ALSO LAUNCHES A FEW MISSILES AT "RIGHTIST GROUPS" AND POLITICIANS (REGAN, WALLACE) WHO, IN AN ELECTION YEAR, PROVIDE THE INCENTIVE FOR U.S. SUPPORT OF THE ANTI-MPLA GROUPS.

6. COMMENT: MOST OF THESE ARGUMENTS AND CHARGES HAVE BEEN HEARD BEFORE, AND MATVEYEV FOR ONE IS CAREFUL TO GIVE EQUAL TIME TO THE TWIN PRIORITIES OF PROMOTING DETENTE AND SUPPORTING NATIONAL LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, BUT THE INTENSE EDITORIAL COVERAGE REFLECTS A HIGH-LEVEL INTEREST IN ANGOLA (AS WELL AS SUPPORT FOR THE MPLA)

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

PAGE 04 MOSCOW 18458 291437Z

WHICH IS NOT WAVERING IN FACE OF U.S. STATEMENTS. THE RETURN OF SOUTH AFRICA AS THE NUMBER ONE WHIPPING-BOY ALSO MAY INDICATE THAT MOSCOW WANTS TO SHORE UP ITS POSITION WITHIN THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY IN PREPARATION FOR THE UPCOMING OAU SUMMIT.

MATLOCK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: NEWS MEDIA COMMENTS, POLITICAL SITUATION, LIBERATION FRONTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 29 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975MOSCOW18458
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750448-0998
From: MOSCOW
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t1975128/aaaaagpu.tel
Line Count: 160
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 MAY 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 MAY 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <10 JUL 2003 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SOVIET MEDIA AGAIN GIVES SOUTH AFRICA LEAD ROLE IN ANGOLA DRAMA
TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, AO, SF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006